Amplituhedra and origami

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Cornell Discrete Geometry and Combinatorics Seminar December 9, 2024

arXiv:2410.09574

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Old-fashioned perturbation theory [Dirac, 1926] 1/10 2/10



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— [Wikipedia]



Each Feynman diagram is the sum of exponentially many old-fashioned terms.

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Loops	#Feynman (super)graphs	# BCFW Cells	
1	940	1	
2	47,380	10	
3	4,448,500	146	
4	672,315,700	2,684	
5	148,251,680,500	56,914	
6	44,838,422,282,500	1,329,324	
7	17,796,990,083,372,500	33,291,164	
8	8,968,512,580,259,732,500	878,836,728	
9	5,592,013,331,255,143,292,500	24,175,924,094	
10	4,225,692,640,945,498,084,862,500	687,444,432,396	
11	3,804,754,710,505,713,091,940,312,500	20,086,271,785,340	
credit: J. Bouriaily			

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8/10

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 - Today: origami [G., 2024] ?/10 ?/10



Classic Snowman v1

Model by Michelle Fung Designed: 12/2020 Crease Pattern: 12/2020 www.michellefung.net



Efficient? Conceptual?

BCFW recurrence computes $\mathcal{A}(P_1^-, P_2^-, P_3^-, P_4^+, P_5^+, P_6^+)$ in two different ways:

$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{[4 5+6 1\rangle^3}{[34][23]\langle 56\rangle\langle 61\rangle[2 3+4 5\rangle S_{234}} \\ + \frac{[6 1+2 3\rangle^3}{[61][12]\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle[2 3+4 5\rangle S_{612}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} [1] \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\$	$ \begin{pmatrix} (S_{123})^3 \\ \hline 12][23]\langle 45\rangle \langle 56\rangle [1 2+3 4\rangle [3 4+5 6\rangle \\ + \frac{\langle 12\rangle^3 [45]^3}{\langle 16\rangle [34] [3 4+5 6\rangle [5 6+1 2\rangle S_{612} \\ + \frac{\langle 23\rangle^3 [56]^3}{\langle 34\rangle [16] [1 2+3 4\rangle [5 6+1 2\rangle S_{234} } \end{pmatrix} $
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$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{[4|5+6|1\rangle^3}{[34][23]\langle 56\rangle\langle 61\rangle[2|3+4|5\rangle S_{234}} \\ +\frac{[6]1+2|3\rangle^3}{[61][12]\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle[2|3+4|5\rangle S_{612}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(S_{123})^3}{[12][23]\langle 45\rangle\langle 56\rangle[1|2+3|4\rangle[3|4+5|6\rangle} \\ +\frac{\langle 12\rangle^3[45]^3}{\langle 16\rangle[34][3|4+5|6\rangle[5|6+1|2\rangle S_{612}} \\ +\frac{\langle 23\rangle^3[56]^3}{\langle 34\rangle[16][1|2+3|4\rangle[5|6+1|2\rangle S_{234}} \end{pmatrix}$$

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Amplituhedron philosophy: [Hodges '09] [Arkani-Hamed–Trnka '14]

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- Terms in BCFW recurrence \longleftrightarrow pieces of a triangulation
- $\bullet\,$ Actual singularities $\longleftrightarrow\,$ boundaries of the amplituhedron
- Spurious singularities \longleftrightarrow boundaries between pieces
- $\mathcal{A}(P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n) \longleftrightarrow$ "volume" of the amplituhedron

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• Consider incoming particles with momenta $P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n \in \mathbb{R}^{3,1}$ which are light-like $(P_i^2 = 0)$ and satisfy $P_1 + P_2 + \cdots + P_n = 0$.

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- Here $P = (p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3)$ and $P^2 = p_0^2 + p_1^2 + p_2^2 p_3^2$.
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On the contrary, for *complex-valued momenta* p^{μ} , the angle and square spinors are independent.¹ It may not seem physical to take p^{μ} complex, but it is a very very very useful strategy. We will see this repeatedly.

One can keep p^{μ} real and change the spacetime signature to (-, +, -, +); in that case, the angle and square spinors are real and independent.

[Elvang, Huang. *Scattering amplitudes in gauge theory and gravity*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015.]

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• Think of a light-like momentum vector $P \in \mathbb{R}^{2,2}$ as a pair $(P^T, P^O) \in \mathbb{C}^2$ of complex numbers satisfying $|P^T| = |P^O|$.





Faces: convex polygons colored black and white;



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Origami map \mathcal{O} :

isometry on each face preserving/reversing the orientations of white/black faces.



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Origami map *O*: P⁷₃ isometry on each face preserving/reversing the orientations of white/black faces.





Origami map \mathcal{O} : P_3^T isometry on each face preserving/reversing the orientations of white/black faces.

Boundary vectors $P_i^{\mathcal{T}}$ and their images $P_i^{\mathcal{O}}$ under \mathcal{O} satisfy $|P_i^{\mathcal{T}}| = |P_i^{\mathcal{O}}|!$ **Main result (preview):** $\mathcal{A}(P_1, \ldots, P_n) = \text{integral over origami crease patterns with boundary <math>P_1, \ldots, P_n$. $k \times n$ matrix C

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & 0 & -b \\ 0 & c & 1 & d \end{bmatrix}$$

 $k \times n$ matrix $C \quad \leftrightarrow \quad k \text{ row vectors in } \mathbb{R}^n$



 $k \times n$ matrix $C \quad \leftrightarrow \quad k$ row vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n \quad \leftrightarrow n$ column vectors in \mathbb{R}^k



 $k \times n$ matrix $C \leftrightarrow k$ row vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n \leftrightarrow n$ column vectors in \mathbb{R}^k mod row operations







 $k \times n \text{ matrix } C \quad \leftrightarrow \quad k \text{ row vectors in } \mathbb{R}^n \quad \leftrightarrow n \text{ column vectors in } \mathbb{R}^k \text{ mod GL}_k(\mathbb{R})\text{-action}$ $C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & 0 & -b \\ 0 & c & 1 & d \end{bmatrix} \quad \leftrightarrow \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & 0 & -b \\ 0 & c & 1 & d \end{bmatrix}}_{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -b \\ 0 & c & 1 & d \end{bmatrix}} \subset \mathbb{R}^4 \quad \leftrightarrow \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -b \\ d \end{bmatrix}}_{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ d \end{bmatrix}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$





 $Gr(k, n) := \{C \in Mat(k, n)\}/(row operations) = \{k-planes inside \mathbb{R}^n\};$

Positive Grassmannian



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Cyclic symmetry: $[C_1|C_2|\cdots|C_n] \mapsto [C_2|\cdots|C_n|(-1)^{k-1}C_1]$ preserves $\operatorname{Gr}_{\geq 0}(k, n)$.

• Spinor-helicity formalism: Since $P_i = (P_i^{\mathcal{T}}, P_i^{\mathcal{O}}) \in \mathbb{C}^2$ with $|P_i^{\mathcal{T}}| = |P_i^{\mathcal{O}}|$, can choose $\lambda_i, \tilde{\lambda}_i \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $P_i^{\mathcal{T}} = \lambda_i \tilde{\lambda}_i$ and $P_i^{\mathcal{O}} = \bar{\lambda}_i \tilde{\lambda}_i$.

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• 2-planes $\lambda, \tilde{\lambda} \in Gr(2, n)$ with columns $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $\tilde{\lambda}_1, \ldots, \tilde{\lambda}_n \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

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- Momentum conservation $P_1 + \cdots + P_n = 0$ is equivalent to $\lambda \perp \tilde{\lambda}$.
- Positive kinematic space: [He–Zhang '18]

$$\mathcal{K}^+_{k,n} := \left\{ \lambda \perp \tilde{\lambda} \middle| \begin{array}{l} \langle i \, i + 1 \rangle > 0, \, [i \, i + 1] > 0 \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n, \\ \text{wind}(\lambda) = (k - 1)\pi, \text{ and } \text{wind}(\tilde{\lambda}) = (k + 1)\pi \end{array} \right\}.$$

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Origami crease patterns are in natural bijection^{*} with triples $\lambda \subset C \subset \tilde{\lambda}^{\perp}$ such that $(\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{K}_{k,n}^+$ and $C \in Gr_{\geq 0}(k, n)$.

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• $(\lambda, \tilde{\lambda})$ determine the (4-dimensional) boundary of the origami crease pattern.

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A(P₁,..., P_n) = integral over {C ∈ Gr_{≥0}(k, n) | λ ⊂ C ⊂ λ̃[⊥]} [ABCGPT '16].

As we saw in section 7, this can also be written as a residue of the top-form,

$$f_{\sigma}^{(k)} = \oint_{C \subset \Gamma_{\sigma}} \frac{d^{k \times n} C}{\operatorname{vol}(GL(k))} \frac{\delta^{k \times 4} (C \cdot \widetilde{\eta})}{(1 \cdots k) \cdots (n \cdots k - 1)} \frac{\delta^{k \times 2} (C \cdot \widetilde{\lambda}) \delta^{2 \times (n - k)} (\lambda \cdot C^{\perp})}{(1 \cdots k) \cdots (n \cdots k - 1)}.$$
(8.2)

Recall from section 4, the (ordinary) δ -functions in (8.2) have the geometric interpretation of constraining the k-plane C to be orthogonal to the 2-plane $\tilde{\lambda}$ and to contain the 2-plane λ , [14]:



[Arkani-Hamed, Bourjaily, Cachazo, Goncharov, Postnikov, Trnka. *Grassmannian Geometry of Scattering Amplitudes*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2016.]
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• $(\lambda, \tilde{\lambda})$ determine the (4-dimensional) boundary of the origami crease pattern.

- $\mathcal{A}(P_1, \ldots, P_n) = \text{integral over } \{ C \in Gr_{\geq 0}(k, n) \mid \lambda \subset C \subset \tilde{\lambda}^{\perp} \} \text{ [ABCGPT '16].}$
- Corollary: BCFW cells triangulate (Mandelstam-positive region of) $\mathcal{K}_{k,n}^+$.



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True or False: we always have $|u^{\mathcal{T}} - v^{\mathcal{T}}| \ge |u^{\mathcal{O}} - v^{\mathcal{O}}|$?



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Theorem (G. (2024))

BCFW cells triangulate $\mathcal{K}_{k,n}^{\mathsf{M}^+}$.

See also: [Arkani-Hamed–Trnka '14], [Even-Zohar–Lakrec–Tessler '21], [Even-Zohar–Lakrec–Parisi–Tessler–Sherman-Bennett–Williams '23].

$$\mathcal{K}_{k,n}^{\mathsf{M}^+} := \{ (\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{K}_{k,n}^+ \mid S_{(i,j]} > 0 \text{ for all } i, j \}.$$

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• BCFW recurrence: $\mathcal{A}(P_1, \ldots, P_n) = \sum_{\Gamma \in \Gamma_{k,n}^{\mathsf{BCFW}}} \overline{\mathcal{A}_{\Gamma}(P_1, \ldots, P_n)}.$

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• Here $\Gamma_{k,n}^{\text{BCFW}}$ is a collection of planar bipartite graphs Γ in a disk. $\Gamma_{3,6}^{\text{BCFW}} = 2$

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- BCFW recurrence: $\mathcal{A}(P_1, \ldots, P_n) = \sum_{\Gamma \in \Gamma_{k,n}^{BCFW}} \mathcal{A}_{\Gamma}(P_1, \ldots, P_n).$
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 $\Gamma_{3.6}^{BCFW} =$

BCFW cell $\mathcal{K}_{\Gamma}^{\mathsf{M}^+} := \left\{ (\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{K}_{k,n}^{\mathsf{M}^+} \middle| \text{ there exists an origami crease pattern with boundary } (\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \text{ and planar dual } \Gamma \right\}$

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$$\mathcal{K}_{k,n}^{\mathsf{M}^+} := \{ (\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{K}_{k,n}^+ \mid S_{(i,j]} > 0 \text{ for all } i, j \}.$$

Theorem (G. (2<u>024))</u>

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 $\Gamma_{3,6}^{\mathsf{BCFW}} = 2 \xrightarrow{2}_{1} \xrightarrow{1}_{6} \xrightarrow{5}_{6}$ $\mathsf{BCFW cell } \mathcal{K}_{\mathsf{F}}^{\mathsf{M}^{+}} := \left\{ (\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{K}_{k,n}^{\mathsf{M}^{+}} \right\}$

Theorem (G. (2024))

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Theorem (G. (2024))

 $\Gamma_{3.6}^{BCFW} =$

2 Each $(\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{K}_{\Gamma}^{M^+}$ is the boundary of a unique origami crease pattern planar dual to Γ .

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Dimer model

• Dimer model: study of perfect matchings on weighted bipartite graphs



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Dimer model

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$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b & 0 & -a \\ 0 & c & 1 & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Delta_{12}(C) = c \quad \Delta_{23}(C) = b \quad \Delta_{34}(C) = a \quad \Delta_{14}(C) = d$$

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Conjecture ([KLRR '18], [CLR '21])

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Theorem (G. (2024))

Part 1 is true, part 2 is false.

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Theorem (G. (2024), "Main bijection")

Origami crease patterns are in natural bijection^{*} with triples $\lambda \subset C \subset \tilde{\lambda}^{\perp}$ such that $(\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{K}_{k,n}^+$ and $C \in Gr_{\geq 0}(k, n)$.

• Given a triple $\lambda \subset \mathcal{C} \subset \tilde{\lambda}^{\perp}$,

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Theorem (G. (2024), "Main bijection")

- Given a triple $\lambda \subset \mathcal{C} \subset \tilde{\lambda}^{\perp}$,
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Theorem (G. (2024), "Main bijection")

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 - origami crease pattern = Kenyon–Smirnov primitive $\int \lambda^{\circ} \tilde{\lambda}^{\bullet} dz$.
 - Hard direction: if $(\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}) \in \mathcal{K}_{k,n}^+$ then $\int \lambda^{\circ} \tilde{\lambda}^{\bullet} dz$ gives a valid (embedded) origami crease pattern.

